(c) 1. a list of the Panchayats from which applications were received for judicial powers; and

2. the reason for the refusal in each case?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) Judicial powers were not conferred on any.

(b) Twenty-four and 60 respectively.

(c) 1. Applications from almost all the Panchayats have been received.

2. The question of giving judicial powers to the Panchayats in question is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—"Applications from almost all the Panchayats have been received". How long have they been receiving, and how long have they been considering?

President.—Consideration, I suppose, must be after the receipt, so that the only question is "how long have they been receiving."

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Two or three years.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then, why is the delay in coming to a conclusion after such a long period? Were they not being considered?

President.—That is a comment on the answer. I cannot permit it.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Have they come to any decision?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Not yet.

90. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any final conclusion regarding the investiture of civil power to all or any of the Panchayats that has not the power at present?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—No. (Vide also answer to question No. 89.)

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—May I know who is the officer mentioned here as "Government". Is it the Diwan or the Superintendent of Panchayats? With whom does the delay take place?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That is not a supplementary question, Sir.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Yes, Sir, it is, because I want to know whether the information of the Superintendent of Panchayats has been submitted to the Government, and where takes place the delay, or whether even the information of the Superintendent of Panchayats has not yet been submitted to the Government?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Is it a supplementary question?

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President.—Now, if you analyse this process, then you will see how you overstep your limits. Supposing that the delay is with the Superintendent of Panchayats, then you will ask what is the delay due to, and other questions will arise.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—What is meant by the word "Government" ? Is it the Head of the Department ?

President.—We have been attempting to define it a number of times, and it has been found an impossible task unless we have got a Government of Cochin Act, as suggested by the Member for the Jewish constituency.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken—I have a doubt whether it is the Head of the Department or the Diwan.

President.—I don't think that all these form part of the business of questions and answers.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken—It is to know where the delay takes place, whether it is in the office of the Superintendent of Panchayats or in the Huzur.

91. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have ever considered, that giving some small powers to Panchayats to administer criminal justice will be of great advantage for the public, especially in rural areas, as done in Travancore; if the answer is in affirmative, will they be pleased to state how the Government has decided the matter ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The matter was considered once before (in 1096) and dropped.

The Kodakara Panchayat.

92. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the names of the members of the existing Kodakara Panchayat ;

(b) of the nominated members, how many were nominated before, and on how many occasions, and whether any of them was defeated in the election ; and if so, the names and the number of times of defeat ;

(c) was there a petition that a Muhammadan gentleman of the locality should be nominated; if so, why was this request not granted?

Mr. I. Raman Menon—(a) Messrs. Kolaprayan Antony.
Poonilarakavu Chathanakkal Narayana Pisharodi,
Kizhakkiniyedath Narayanan Nambudiri,
Pallatheri Paren Madhavan,
Areekat Achyutan Nayar,
Poliyedath Govindan Nayar,
Ettumanukkaran Mathew.

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